

STATE OF MICHIGAN
EXAMINATION INFORMATION
JOURNEY PLUMBER

EXAMINATION AUTHORITY

The State Plumbing Act, 2002 PA 733 with licensing rules establishes the criteria, which controls the examinations and issuances of plumbing licenses in the State of Michigan.

APPLICATION FORMS AVAILABILITY

The forms and others are available on the Bureau of Construction Codes and Fire Safety web site - www.michigan.gov/bccfs. Various other forms are available for use based upon your area of interest.

The site can be accessed by:

1. Selecting the FORMS button
2. Selecting the CONSTRUCTION CODES button
3. Selecting PLUMBING DIVISION

Further inquiries may be directed to the following:

Bureau of Construction Codes and Fire Safety
Plumbing Division
P. O. Box 30254
Lansing, Michigan 48909
Telephone: (517) 241-9330

ELIGIBILITY

To qualify for the examination a person shall be 18 years of age and have at least 6,000 hours of experience gained over not less than 3 years as an apprentice plumber in the practical installation of plumbing under the supervision of a master plumber.

The plumbing law requires all examinees to be of good moral character as defined and determined under 1974 PA 381. All applications request background information if the applicant has been convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor. When an applicant states yes a "Request for Conviction History" form will be provided and a review process will be initiated. Failure to accurately report a conviction history will result in forfeiting any rights of consideration for examination.

CANDIDATES WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

If you have a disability and require an accommodation to take the examination, please submit written documentation from a professional (education professional, doctor, psychologist, psychiatrist) to certify that your disabling condition requires the requested test accommodation. Forms are available from this office.

OVERVIEW OF THE EXAMINATION

The journey examination consists of a copper practical, isometric workbook practical and written question tests. The written portions are an open book test using the current Michigan Plumbing Code. The copper and isometric practical exams shall be completed in three hours in the morning and the written in two and a half hours in the afternoon.

The copper project consist of solder joined pipe and fittings header system with one offset and two risers constructed from $\frac{1}{2}$ " and $\frac{3}{4}$ " copper pipe with two threaded joints. The assembly is constructed from material specifications provided on a supplied schematic. The project must hold a pressure test and fit a jig designed to measure correct dimensions and alignment. The plumbing division supplies the pipe, fittings and solder. A failing score is given for incomplete projects or leak test failures.

The isometric workbook consists of 50 multiple choice questions answered on a machine graded form. The questions are based upon drawings in the booklet and may be located on the same page or across from the drawings. The drawings are not to scale since only general application designs are used. They cover drainage, general mathematics in the plumbing profession, venting, and other practical applications.

The written exam consists of 100 multiple choice questions answered on a machine graded form. The questions are based upon drainage systems, general knowledge, fixtures, water/backflow protection, storm/special waste, testing, inspections and venting.

SAMPLE QUESTION

1. The minimum size of a water service is _____ inches.
 - A. $\frac{1}{2}$ "
 - B. $\frac{5}{8}$ "
 - C. $\frac{3}{4}$ "
 - D. 1"

The applicant fills in C for question 1 on the answer sheet.

Candidates must receive a minimum of 70% on all parts of the exam to qualify for a license.

EXAMINATION DATES

Examinations are given in March, June, July (in the Upper Peninsula only for a limited number of those residents), September and December of each year.

Applications shall be on file in the Plumbing Division office at least 20 working days before the scheduled examination. However applicants wishing to take the examination should submit applications as soon as possible since the division continually processes submissions.

All parking is free at the MSU Agricultural and Livestock Pavilion. The most convenient place to park will be in the EXHIBITORS LOT. You may use Entrance "P" for admission to the examination. Maps will be mailed with the admission card.

APPLICATIONS AND FEES

Applications and fees must be submitted to the State of Michigan/Plumbing Division. The journey examination fee is \$50.00.

ADMISSION TO THE EXAMINATION

If approved for examination, an admission card will be mailed to you approximately 7 days prior to the examination date. The admission card shows the candidate number, date, location, and time of the examination. Only pre-registered candidates are admitted to the exam. No walk-in applicants are admitted.

WHAT TO BRING TO THE EXAMINATION

Candidates must bring their admission card and an official signed photo identification to be admitted to the examination. No one is admitted to the exam without picture identification.

The following materials are to be furnished by the applicant:

- At least two sharpened #2 pencils are required to mark answer sheets
- Silent non-printing calculators and scale conversion rulers are permitted.
- A 24-inch square Masonite lapboard to use as a work surface.
- Current Michigan Plumbing Code book, which shall be unmarked.
- Safety glasses are to be worn during the practical examination.
- All necessary tools and materials including a 20" x 28" board for the copper fabrication project. Equipment shall not be shared with other examinees.
- You must provide 1 - $\frac{3}{4}$ " x $\frac{1}{4}$ " galvanized or brass bushing and 1 - $\frac{1}{4}$ " snifter valve (for the board to add an air test to the project), soldering flux, and joint sealing compound (for the threaded joint).

ITEMS NOT PERMITTED AT THE EXAMINATION

Oxy-acetylene torch assemblies; tinning flux which contains solder; compressed air containers or suppliers; holding assemblies (20" x 28" board) higher than 18 inches; and carts or other wheeled carrying devices are prohibited at the copper test. All tools shall be contained in a toolbox or bag and limited to those items, which the applicant can easily carry in with the necessary torch assembly.

Cameras, videotaping equipment, recorders, cell phones and PDA's are prohibited. Further programmable calculators, note paper, notes or other material will not be allowed into the exam site.

The IPC Commentary is not permitted and applicants are cautioned that code books shall be unmarked. This includes margin notes, test notes, highlighting, or other test aids. Chapter index tabs are acceptable.

LICENSE ISSUANCES

All scores are mailed simultaneously after grading and board approval. To insure confidentiality examination scores are not given over the telephone. Successful applicants receive a license after payment of the \$20.00 annual fee.

FAILURE OF EXAMINATION

If the applicant fails the examination, the application is canceled and the fee forfeited. Notification includes a reexamination application form. Applicants are eligible to apply for the next examination by completing the reexamination form and sending it to the Plumbing Division with the examination fee.